

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 (ISO) W

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Z O 020920Z SEP 75 ZFF-6

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN ALEXANDRIA

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS FLASH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN FLASH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 10325

EXDIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT TO DAMASCUS

1. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT PRESIDENCY AND INFORM THEM THAT SECRETARY VERY MUCH WANTS TO FIND A WAY IF AT ALL POSSIBLE FOR AT LEAST A BRIEF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD BEFORE HE LEAVES AREA. THE ONLY TIME HE SEES THAT THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE WOULD BE TO SHORTEN HIS STOP IN AMMAN AND STOP BRIEFLY IN DAMASCUS ON HIS WAY BACK TO WASHINGTON WEDNESDAY. HIS PROBLEM, WHICH YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN, IS THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS MEETING HIM AT AIRPORT UPON ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON AND HE THEREFORE CANNOT ARRIVE LATER THAN 10:30 PM IN WASHINGTON. WOULD IT BE CONVENIENT FOR PRESIDENT ASAD TO RECEIVE SECRETARY FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR AROUND 1:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3. PERHAPS THERE WOULD BE SOME PLACE CLOSER TO THE AIRPORT WHERE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MEET, ALTHOUGH SECRETARY WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY WANT TO INCONVENIENCE PRESIDENT ASAD AND WOULD BE HONORED TO SEE HIM WHEREVER THE PRESIDENT DESIRES.

2. FOR AMMAN: PLEASE SEE RIFAI AND TELL HIM THAT SECRETARY
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IS SURE HIS MAJESTY AND HE WOULD AGREE THAT IT IS DESIRABLE

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE FOR SECRETARY TO TOUCH BASE IN DAMASCUS
BEFORE LEAVING AREA. IF THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH SYRIANS,
AND GIVEN FACT THAT SECRETARY CATFOT ARRIVE TOO LATE IN
WASHINGTON WEDNESDAY NIGHT BECAUSE PRESIDENT FORD IS MEETING
HIM AT AIRPORT, THE ONLY WAY THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE WOULD BE
TO LEAVE AMMAN EARLY -- I.E., SHORTLY AFTER NOON ON WEDNESDAY.
FWE ARE SOUNDING SYRIANS OUT ON THIS POSSIBILITY AND WILL OF COURSE
KEEP JORDANIANS INFORMED, BUT WANTED THEM TO KNOW IMMEDIATELY
OF THIS SCHEDULING PROBLEM. IF IT SHOULD IN FACT PROVE NECESSARY
FOR SECRETARY TO LEAVE AMMAN A BIT EARLIER, HE HOPES THIS WILL
NOT BE SERIOUS INCONVENIENCE AND THAT HIS MAJESTY WILL UNDERSTAND
AND AGREE WITH THE REASONS WHICH MAKE IT NECESSARY.

KISSINGER

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NNN

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